



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 December 1968



50X1

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
24 DECEMBER 1968

1. Turkey

Undaunted by their recent failure to organize anti-US and antigovernment demonstrations, leftist students will probably try again in the next few days.

This time they are planning to occupy, and possibly sabotage, a foreign-financed factory [redacted]

50X1

[redacted] near Istanbul. The students' plans call for a two-part campaign against foreign capital investment in Turkey. [redacted]

50X1

50X1

50X1

Phase two is only in the planning stage, but it is tentatively scheduled for March.

Since the Demirel government is probably aware of these plans, it should be able to cope with major demonstrations. Individual acts of sabotage, however, will be difficult to prevent.

2. Iraq

President Bakr's six-month-old revolutionary government is preparing to suppress another military coup attempt. The latest [redacted] rumblings indicate that middle-level officers are planning to take over the government within the next week or two and to turn it over to civilian control. The incumbents, however, seem to know about the plot and its chances for success are slim.

50X1

50X1

Page Denied

3. Lebanon

50X1

4. Nigeria

We doubt that federal troops will honor Biafra's declaration of an eight-day truce, which began at midnight local time on 23 December. Federal troops did not even observe a one-day truce they themselves had announced for last week, and there is no reason to think they will hold off during a second truce they have announced for Christmas.

The International Red Cross has managed to get a 15-day extension from the government of Equatorial Africa authorizing continued relief flights to Biafra. A new agreement on future flights must be worked out during that period.

50X1

5. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Last week's trade agreement ties the Czechoslovak economy more closely to the Soviets.

According to the few details we have, the agreement calls for more of the same--expanded Soviet exports of fuels, raw materials, food, and technology, in return for Czech manufactures.

50X1
50X1

Even though this agreement is somewhat open-ended, we do not think it will be an adequate substitute for the Western technology which Prague had wanted.

These developments probably reinforce the growing impression within Czechoslovakia that Dubcek is being painted into a corner. In order to maintain public order and control over political developments, Dubcek has been forced to warn that further "undemocratic measures" might be necessary if resistance to retrenchment is not ended. Any such moves will cost him additional support from the liberals, who up to now have been his strongest backers.

6. Panama

The balance between the two leaders of the military junta is beginning to shift. Both men are still interested in maintaining unity, but competing National Guard factions are crystallizing around them. If the rivalry between these factions becomes more intense, there could be a falling out at the top.

50X1

Top Secret

Top Secret



FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of US
Political Attitudes



Top Secret 50X1

16
24 December 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

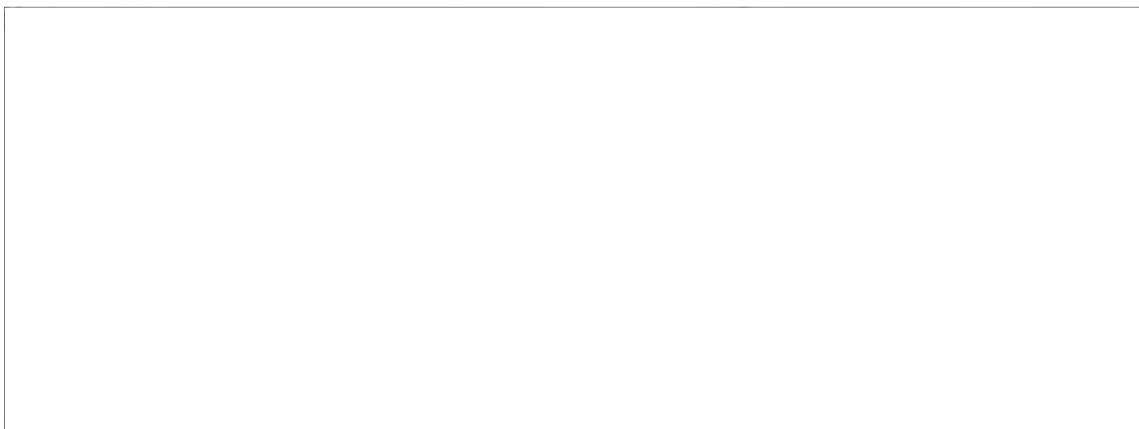
24 December 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

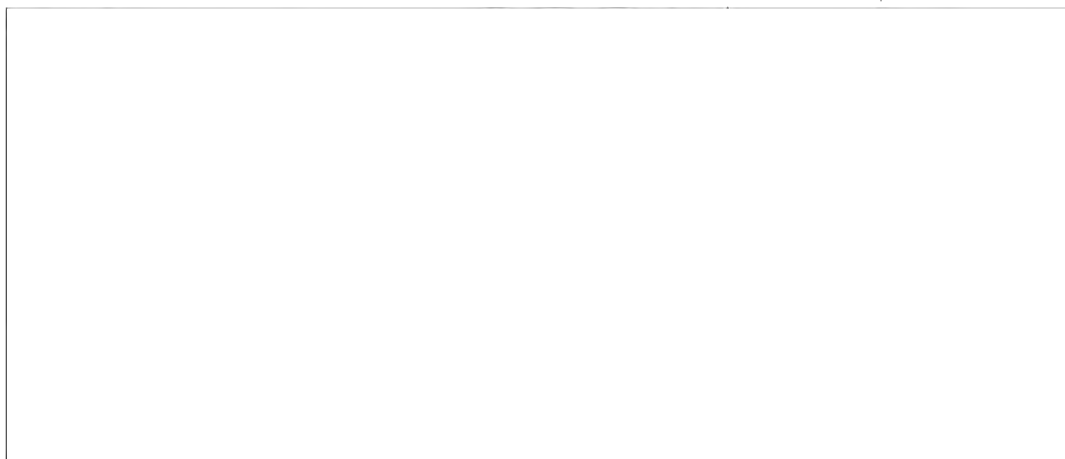
50X1

50X1

50X1



* * *

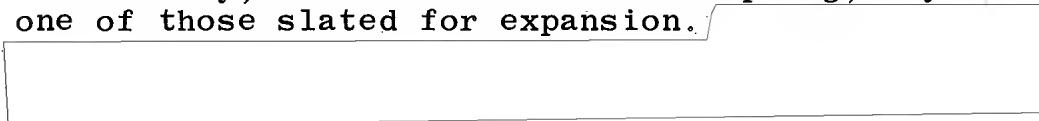


50X1

* * *

Plans for Port Construction: Vice premier Le Thanh Nghi, in a recent speech broadcast over Hanoi Radio's domestic service, said that Haiphong harbor "must be enlarged." He also asserted that "other ports...are going to be built or enlarged."

Hon Gay, to the northeast of Haiphong, may be one of those slated for expansion.



50X1

* * *

50X1

II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Notes Criticism of Ky: Radio Hanoi, quoting Western news agency dispatches, on 22 December broadcast the derogatory comments made by Senators Young and McGovern about South Vietnamese Vice President Ky. The brief statement over Hanoi's international service also cited remarks by the senators that the US should begin a troop withdrawal as soon as possible.

Top Secret